

Application Serial No.: 09/695,830

Attorney Docket No.: 52493.000090

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-24 and 26-44 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5, 10, 15, 17, 19, 22, 26, 31, 36, 38 and 40 are amended; claims 4 and 25 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter set forth therein; and claims 43 and 44 are added. The features of claims 4 and 25 have been incorporated into claims 1 and 22, respectively. Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added by this Amendment. Support may be found, for example, on pages 13 and 14 of the present application. Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully requested.

I. THE ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action indicates that claims 10-16, 17, 19, 31-35, 36-37, 38 and 40 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant appreciates such indication of allowable subject matter.

Applicant traverses the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103, as to the amended claims, as set forth. However, the claims are hereby amended to place the objected to claims in allowable form.

Specifically, the claims have been amended as follows:

Claim 10 is amended to include the features of claims 1, 2, 6 and 7.

Claim 15 is amended to include the features of claim 1.

Claim 17 is amended to include the features of claim 1.

Claim 19 is amended to include the features of claim 1.

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Claim 31 is amended to include the features of claims 22, 23, 27 and 28.

Claim 36 is amended to include the features of claim 22.

Claim 38 is amended to include the features of claim 22.

Claim 40 is amended to include the features of claim 22.

II. THE REJECTIONS IN THE OFFICE ACTION ARE IMPROPER

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, and 4 (as well as claims 22, 23 and 25) under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,370,355 to Ceretta et al (Ceretta). Further, the Office Action rejects claims 3 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ceretta.

However, these rejections are deficient in that claim 4 depends on claim 3 (and claim 25 depends on claim 24). That is, as should be appreciated, the Office Action proposes to reject a further narrowed claim (e.g. claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102) while the broader claim (e.g., claim 3) is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. Accordingly, the rejections are improper.

III. THE 35 U.S.C. §102 AND 35 U.S.C. §103 REJECTIONS

The Office Action rejects claims 1-2, 4, 6-8, 20-23, 25, 27-29, 41-42 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Ceretta. Further, the Office Action rejects claims 3, 5, 9, 24, 26, 30, as well as claims 18 and 39, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ceretta.

These rejections are traversed in particular in view of the impropriety of the rejections set forth above. That is, the basis of the rejection of claims 4 and 25, in particular, is unclear.

Claim 1 is amended to include the features of claim 4. Accordingly, claim 1 recites a method for interactively providing a specialized learning curriculum over a computer network comprising the steps of receiving, from a client computer associated with a user, personal information relating to at least one user interest; storing said personal information

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on at least one server computer associated with an education content provider; generating a specialized learning curriculum based upon said personal information; and displaying said specialized learning curriculum to said user; and *further comprising the steps of displaying a menu of descriptive community identifiers to the user; and receiving a user selection of a particular descriptive community identifier.* Ceretta fails to teach each and every feature of claim 1, including the display and selection of the community identifiers.

The Office Action refers to the teachings of Ceretta in column 10 of Ceretta. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that as to claim 4, Ceretta discloses the steps of displaying a menu of descriptive community identifiers to the user (Fig. 6) and receiving a user selection of a particular descriptive community identifier (col. 10, lines 37-42).

In column 10, lines 15-58, Ceretta teaches that Fig. 6 is an example of a screen view that illustrates fields required for the registration of an end-user. Required fields may include a first name, last name, and e-mail address. Additional required fields may include a login password and a login user name. Further required fields may include confirmation of the password, the home country, phone number, and/or the end-user's United States zip code. Optionally, a password hint may be entered by an end-user for purposes of reminding the end-user of their password at a future time. In addition to the required and optional fields of FIG. 6, an end-user may specify whether they would like to receive updates and educational materials pertaining to their expressed educational interest.

As referenced in the Office Action, Ceretta also teaches that as further shown by Fig. 6, either prior to, or after, finalization of the sign-up form, the end-user may reset or submit the form. As known by one of ordinary skill in the art, resetting the form may clear any

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particular number of the fields, or, in the alternative, all fields, within the end-user's Web browser. However, Applicant submits that such teaching of Ceretta in no way fairly teaches the features of claim 1.

Ceretta further describes that in response to submission of the form, the program controller 53, located in the Web server 51, queries the student table 82 of the Web server database 72 to determine if either, the end-user has previously registered for with the learning system 100 with an educational homeroom, or, the email address entered by the end-user has been previously used. If the end-user has not previously registered, and the email address has not been previously used, the program controller 53 provides the end-user with a user name and password which is then stored in the student table 82, of the Web server database 72. The user name and password may be transmitted to the end-user via e-mail, or any other commonly used method of data transmission. The end-user may then log into the learning system 100 with an educational homeroom.

Claim 1 recites displaying a menu of descriptive community identifiers to the user, and receiving a user selection of a particular descriptive community identifier. Thus, claim 1 clearly recites a presentation of a menu of descriptive community identifiers to the user, in conjunction with the user then selecting a particular descriptive community identifier. The teachings of Ceretta as discussed above are essentially the well known functionality of providing an on-line form of sorts, which can be cleared, as desired. While the Ceretta system does indeed effect some processing based on the input information, as is expected, it is respectfully submitted that the clear features of claim 1 are not present.

For example, Applicant notes that Ceretta describes that an end-user may specify whether they would like to receive updates and educational materials pertaining to their

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"expressed educational interest." In column 2, lines 19-31, Ceretta teaches that each tailored educational tool is focused upon a knowledge area in which the end-user has expressed educational interest. End-users may complete each educational tool at their own pace, repeat lessons as necessary, and learn according to their own schedule. In one example, the blended learning system uses the combination of instructor-led virtual classrooms (I-led), online coaching, interactive computer based training (CBT), knowledge databases, published study guides and books, hands-on exercise labs and/or pre-certification exams. Further, Ceretta teaches in column 11, lines 4-8, that examples of ways that an end-user may express educational interest may include, but are not limited to, the purchasing of educational tools within specific educational categories, and providing personal information via electronic information surveys.

However, these teachings also fail to teach or suggest the features of amended claim 1, i.e., which now includes the previous features of claim 4. Further, by this Amendment, claims 43 and 44 are added to further recite novel features related to the *descriptive community identifiers*. Applicant respectfully submits that under either 35 U.S.C. §102 and/or 35 U.S.C. §103, Ceretta fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 1. Claim 22 is allowable for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Applicant further submits that the various dependent claims are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above, as well the further features that such dependent claims recite. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

IV. CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons outlined above, Applicant respectfully asserts that the

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application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

For any fees due in connection with filing this Response the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,
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